


**LONDON BUREAU
FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE**



31 March 1976


A/Chief, Operations Group
FBIS Washington

Subject: Standardization of Sourcelines

Dear 

Here at long last is the FBIS-BBC Working Group's list of sourceline proposals. It represents more than a year's hard work and plenty of give and take on both sides.

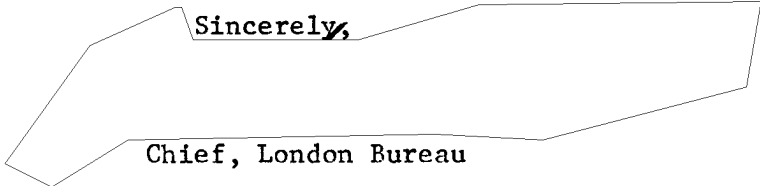
While this list doesn't quite complete the work on sourceline standardization it takes us over the biggest hurdles, and much of the remaining chores will consist of a routine grinding out of sourceline lists by each side that will be subject to the approval of the other side.

I would like to emphasize that joint agreement was reached on this list of proposals only because both sides accepted reasonable compromises. If either side had failed to give way on some of its time-honored traditions there would have been no headway whatever. This spirit of compromise will have to continue if we are to expect the sourcelines work to be brought to a successful conclusion.

A case in point is the proposal governing "clandestine" broadcasts. A great deal of soul-searching went into this before joint agreement was reached; FCS' views were carefully considered but not one member of the group was able to accept them. I agree with the Working Group's reasoning. "Clandestine" broadcasts are seldom if ever clandestine. They are right out in the open. They simply don't tell you everything about themselves a listener might want to know, and specifically, from the sourceline point of view, where they are being broadcast from.

The next move is up to Headquarters. Assuming full approval is received, the work of our two members of the Working Group ceases while FCS prepares the full FBIS list of sourcelines based on the new rules. Of course, our team stands ready to present Headquarters' views on any aspect of the sourcelines work and it is also prepared to carry out any other task it is given.

Sincerely,


Chief, London Bureau

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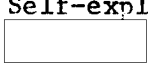
We are forwarding for your approval the FBIS-BBC Working Group's joint list of proposed sourceline principles. These are contained in Attachment A. We are also sending along as supporting evidence the minutes of the Working Group's meetings held since the 1 October 1975 FCS letter responding to the group's earlier proposals. These are contained in Attachment B. Also included, in Attachment C, are copies of the relevant wirefiled messages.

Here is a rundown of the list of proposed principles in an attempt to clarify points that may appear to be ambiguous:

I. Basic Principles

- (1) The word "monitoring" is meant to include technical evidence and official schedules and other publications, correspondence and observations that can be verified.
- (2) This is self-explanatory. Point 6 of the 5 December 1975 minutes provides some examples of its usage.
- (3) After receiving and discussing the FCS 14 October 1975 message (WA663), the Working Group decided that it was best not to try to reflect in sourcelines the distinctions between "official," "semi-official," and "non-official." The reasons are contained in Point 3 of the 5 December 1975 minutes.

II. General Rules

- (1) Self-explanatory and already approved by Headquarters (in  6 November 1975 message).
- (2) This principle was rephrased from the original proposal to allow either party the option to include or eliminate the destination (when given) as it chooses. In this way, the principle has been expanded to encompass regional sourcelines.

- (3) Self-explanatory and already approved by Headquarters.
- (4) Self-explanatory and already approved by Headquarters.
- (5) As in (2) above, this principle has been rephrased to allow either party to include or eliminate the destination.
- (6) Self-explanatory and already approved by Headquarters.
- (7) As indicated in the second Note appended to the list, BBC will prepare a list of sourcelines for transmissions covered by FBIS that should include the name of the country. FBIS is free to draw up a list of its own for transmissions covered by BBC.
- (8) The same reason applies here as in (5) above.
- (9) The Working Group could not assent to the propositions put forward in the last paragraph of WA663 for continuance of the use of "clandestine" in sourcelines. The Working Group unanimously agreed to adhere to its earlier recommendation to substitute "Location Undisclosed" for sourcelines in this category.

As indicated in the last paragraph of the 16 March 1976 minutes, the Working Group was unable to come up with a jointly agreed principle to cover telegraph services other than news agencies, such as those for maritime targets. It would like to have Headquarters' views on this.

The Working Group now awaits Headquarters' approval of this list of principles. After that, FCS and BBC will have to draw up their own sourcelines lists adhering to these new principles. Then the sourcelines must be gone over one by one by each side to insure that both agree on the new formulations. This phase will be painstaking and time-consuming, but it is the only way to come up with a full list that will be to everyone's satisfaction.

Yours truly,



Deputy Chief, London Bureau

cc: FCS

Attachments

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